

America's First Choice



# TAILWIND

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 2



## HOLIDAY FUN

Wing Winter Wonderland holiday party a huge success. More photos on Page ...

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## EAGLE EYES

Travis adopts "neighborhood watch" program; base officials call for community support

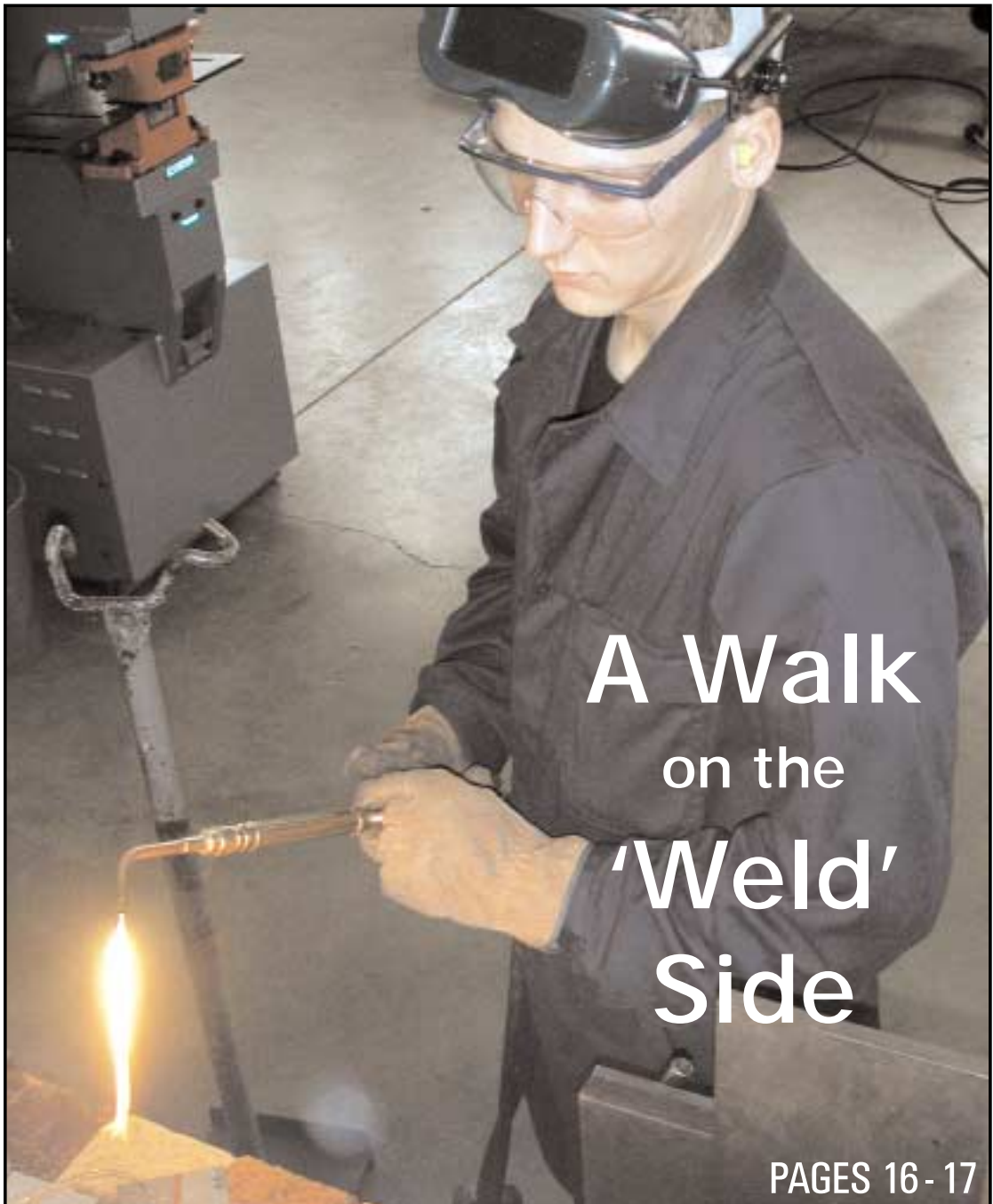
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## FITNESS RULES

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## A Walk on the 'Weld' Side

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# Commander's Corner

## Travis team: full speed ahead



By Brig. Gen.  
Brad Baker  
60th AMW  
commander

We're still in a season of being very "busy," operationally speaking at Travis, as we continue to move forces and resources in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Whether you're serving at home base ... or downrange at a deployed location, I can't tell you enough how proud I am of the work you do ... because you're just doing superb.

### Visitors at Travis

Travis is one of the Air Force's busiest thoroughfares for high-ranking visitors ... and the last few weeks have been no exception. Most recently, we had six key members of the **House Science Committee** here ... and they had lunch at the Delta Breeze Club.

We gave each of them our time-honored wing coin ... in addition to a glimpse of the professional people at work behind

the scenes. Through it all, our 60th protocol office really stood out, having ensured a first class visit from beginning to end ... and my hat's off to **1st Lt. Wendy Enderle** and **Staff Sgt. Brandy Breyfogle** who expertly handled this.

This is consistent with the level of excellence ... demonstrated by many other Travis team members.

### 60th Command Post

Recently, a C-5 from another base diverted to Travis needing maintenance.

Our Travis Command Post Duty Officer, **Capt. Chad Greiner** from the 22nd Airlift Squadron, did a great job by quickly recognizing the aircraft malfunction would not be a quick fix. He, along with our superstar aerial port and maintenance pros, quickly orchestrated a swap of personnel and cargo to another Travis C-5 to keep this vital wartime mission moving.

### 60th Aerial Port

Another note of recognition is due to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron's **Lt. Col. Cathy**

**DeVera** who answered the call deploying a team of seven from her squadron, within six hours of notification, to March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

The team was mobilized to augment the cargo processing and loading operation already underway at the base ... and my hat's off to those Aerial Port professionals, specifically, **2nd Lt. Matthew Hull**, **Master Sgt. John Wood Jr.**, **Staff Sgt. Aaron Esgana**, **Senior Airman Erick Gonzales-Rodriguez**, **Senior Airman Jason Doyle**, **Airman First Class Ty Cunningham** and **Airman Jason McCoy**.

### C-5 team briefs General Jumper

It's not every day that a group of wing level Air Force members have the opportunity to brief the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force. The following team had that distinct honor because of their outstanding work ... delivering forces and resources aboard C-5s into Afghanistan. Great job to the entire group, and specific thanks to **Lt. Col. Mark Dillon**, **Lt. Col. James Spaulding**, **Master Sgt. Roy**

**Dietz**, **Staff Sgt. Erick Fierro**, **Staff Sgt. Kevin Bridgeforth**, **Airman Michael Holtzclaw** and **Master Sgt. Lavell Williams Jr.**, for representing Travis so well!

### Other Travis winners

We also have some Air Mobility Command level award winners here at Travis ... **Capt. Karie Pahia** earned AMC's Outstanding Base Level Chief of Military Equal Opportunity and Treatment Office award, while **Senior Airman Camella Apsay** of the 60th Electronic Maintenance Squadron, earned the Outstanding Unit Level Personnel Specialist award.

I also want to congratulate some recent 15th Air Force award winners in our 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron, to include **Capt. Heather Cook**, **Victor Montoya**, **2nd Lt. Corey Strong**, **Airman First Class Sean Smith** and **Karen Whitaker**.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication ... you are the BEST!

God bless the Travis team and God bless America!

## ACTION LINE

### TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Call the Action Line at 424-3333

### Abandoned vehicles

**Q** There is an apparently unoccupied motor home, parked in the RV sale lot, that has neither base tags nor a sale sign. There is also a cat in the motor home.

Concerned about whether the cat's being fed, I've called the security desk a couple of times. Hopefully, the cat is OK. Thanks for your time.

**A** Thank you for your vigilance in keeping an eye out for vehicles that appear out of place, in addition to being concerned for a cat's welfare.

We verified through the Auto Hobby shop this vehicle was legitimately for sale; however, the owner was not authorized to occupy the RV while it was parked on the sale lot.

As it turns out, the cat did belong to the owner of the vehicle and was taken care of. While the RV and cat have since vacated the parking lot, this brings to light an important point: animals are sensitive to both high and low temperatures and leaving a pet unattended in a vehicle puts the animal at risk.

By reporting vehicles that appear out of place or abandoned, you help sustain the high level of force protection at Travis.

### Malfunctioning stoplight

**Q** I was in my car at the intersection of Travis and Burgan. When the stop light didn't turn green, I rolled back and forth over the sensor a few times, though the light still didn't change. After I exhausted all options I rolled back one more time to get the light

to change and just went for it. I'm glad I didn't get stopped by the security forces because even though they have a tough job to do I think they are on a power trip.

**A** I appreciate your concern and agree we did have a problem with this particular stop light, because we were trying to use the old pressure plate in the road that didn't exactly match up with our new traffic lane markings. Consequently, we have placed the lights on a timer, which seems to have solved this problem.

As to your reference regarding our security forces, I'm afraid I don't agree with your assessment. Our security forces personnel do have a tough job, but from my view, they are extremely busy, dedicated, conscientious and professional. However, if you have a specific complaint against a specific person, I encourage you to address it within your immediate chain of command. Your supervisor and commander will be happy to address the situation with the appropriate commander.

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.  
60th Air Mobility Wing

**Brig. Gen. Brad Baker**  
60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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### On the Cover



**TSgt. Scott King** / 60th AMW Public Affairs  
Fabrication Flight keeps Travis flying ... See Pages 16-17.

# Fitness Center shapes up rules

## Unsupervised children, towel use top list of center policies

By Linda Mann-Iames  
60th Services Squadron

New Year's resolutions to lose weight and get in shape bring a lot of people to the gym. As the Fitness Center fills with new exercise enthusiasts and returning patrons, it is the perfect time to remind customers about Air Force policies and Travis programs.

### Age restrictions

Children under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the Fitness Center. Travis teens, ages 14 and 15, may use the exercise equipment and attend classes if escorted by a parent.

Children under 14 years old may only use the gymnasium and racquetball courts when actively participating with an adult.

"Underage children may not be left unattended while an adult participates in an activity," said Fitness Center Director Tanya Graves. "If an athlete brings a child as a spectator to

an intramural event, that child must be supervised by another adult and not left unattended."

### Towel use

Sweat is corrosive to exercise equipment: it breaks down the upholstery and rubber and rusts the metal. This causes expensive repair and downtime. There is a simple way to increase the life of exercise equipment and cut down on the spread of germs at the same time ... use a towel.

Patrons are asked to wipe their face, hands, neck, etc., often to prevent dripping sweat on the equipment. All equipment should be wiped down with a sanitary gym wipe (provided by the facility) after use to ensure cleanliness and hygiene.

Customers are required to carry a towel when using the facility. They can bring a bath towel from home or buy one at the front desk. The Fitness Center offers a free towel swap program so customers can turn in their dirty towel and trade it for a clean one as often as needed.

### Music policy

Music is an integral part of working out to many patrons, but the type of music most conducive to a good exercise routine is a matter of debate.

Fitness center officials have determined that the local family station was the least offensive and most appropriate background music at the Fitness Center.

"We encourage people to bring their [portable audio devices], because there are so many varying and diverse tastes in music that everyone cannot possibly be satisfied," said Graves. "Customers can also tune a portable FM radio to the TV station playing on the monitor in front of them."

### Massage therapy

The Fitness Center's massage therapy program has been expanded to serve more customers. Appointments can be scheduled with a professional massage therapist from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Archive photo

Walk-in massages are available from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday through Wednesday and from 9 to 11 a.m. on Thursday. Appointments can be scheduled up to 24 hours in advance.

All massages must be paid for upon making the appointment. The rates are \$25 for 30 minutes, \$40 for one hour, and \$60 for 90 minutes.

### Fitness for New Mommies

To help pregnant women and new mothers stay in shape, the Fitness Center now offers a Pregnancy and Postpartum Exercise Class from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday and

Thursday. Registration is \$25 a month. Those interested in attending the class can register at the front counter of the Fitness Center.

The class includes low impact aerobics, upper and lower body toning, pelvic floor exercises and safe stretching and relaxation techniques. The class is open to pregnant women and women who have given birth within the past six months. Babies less than six months old, in an infant carrier, may accompany their mother to the class.

Call the Fitness Center at 424-2008 for more information about their policies or a schedule of classes.

## Air Force Wrestling Training Camp looking for wrestlers

The staff of the All Air Force Wrestling Training Camp believes there are many active-duty members out there "wrestling" with the idea of attending this year's camp. For that reason they are extending a wide-sweeping invitation to all interested grapplers.

"The Air Force would like to have a great showing in 2003," said Air Force Sports NCOIC Staff Sgt. Patrick Bennett. One of the reasons Bennett and his staff are hopeful of a large turnout is because this year the Air Force will be the hosts of the Armed Forces Wrestling Championships.

Bennett has sent out press releases to all bases, hoping to reach the goal of receiving 90 or more AF Form 303s for applicants to the training camp. The camp is March 2 to 15 at Mountain Home Air Force Base and Colorado Springs, Colo.

Deadline for applications is Jan. 30. Men and women may apply.

"We will be making selections at the end of the first week in February," Bennett said, adding that that normally means 25 to 30 athletes are chosen to attend the camp. "Invariably we get numerous late applicants that end up finding that all of the slots are already filled," he said.

Applicants are being sought in seven men's weight classes (121, 132, 145, 163, 184, 211 and 264) and four women's weight classes (105, 114, 138 and 147). However, since this is the first year for Air Force women to be able to compete, the requirement is that female candidates have a background in wrestling, judo or some other form of martial art.

For details, send an e-mail to [fivestars-fam@juno.com](mailto:fivestars-fam@juno.com).

## Travis Sailing Center offers dinner on the Bay

By 60th Services Squadron

The Travis Sailing Center, home of the Presidio Yacht Club, will play host to two annual parties in the next few weeks.

► The Super Bowl XXXVII Chili Cook-Off begins at 5 p.m. on Jan. 26. Chili cooks will compete for valuable prizes. Taste a variety of chili recipes and watch the game on a big screen TV. The cost is \$5 per person.

► The Presidio Yacht Club Crab Feed begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 8 and features all-you-can eat steamed and cracked crab, French bread, salad and dessert.

The homemade clam chowder is a yacht club favorite. Sign up early, as there is limited seating and the crab feed sells out every year. Dinner is



Archive photo

Presidio Yacht Club Crab Feed patrons enjoy last year's Crab Feed.

\$25 per person.

Sign up at the Travis Sailing Center or contact Louis Canotas at [custom88@aol.com](mailto:custom88@aol.com) or call

Canotas at (415) 929-8204, or contact Henriette Gordon at [hengord@aol.com](mailto:hengord@aol.com) or call Gordon at (415) 664-8263.

# Memories

## Wing holiday party ... a good time had by all

By Capt. Kimberly Garbett  
60th MDG Public Affairs

More than 280 members of Team Travis partook of the fun, food and festivities Dec. 20 during the 60th Air Mobility Wing Winter Wonderland Holiday Party.

The wing holiday party, incorporating civilian and military personnel from groups across the base, turned out to be a huge success, said Capt. Karie Pahia, project officer for the event.

From reindeer karaoke fundraisers to scavenger hunts to raffles for prizes, the evening came with a ticket for fun. Commanders instantaneously became reindeer — complete with Rudolph's red nose — as part of the evening's good-natured entertainment. However, only one commander could win the dubious opportunity of singing to the crowd dressed as Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer.

The 60th Maintenance Group appeared at the holiday party en masse, and in the end, Col. Dan Steele, 60th MXG commander, won the reindeer karaoke singing opportunity. Steele solicited the assistance and expertise of his troops. Steele, decked in his Rudolph attire, directed his fellow "reindeer" in a traditional and uplifting rendition of "Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer," in front of a ballroom full of people.

The scavenger hunt included determined, rapid searches



The Band of the Golden West provided entertainment throughout the evening.

across the Delta Breeze Club Ballroom for such items as hand lotion, gum, squadron coins, cute baby pictures, a holiday clothing accessory and, the final determining factor, a red shoe.

A traditional holiday meal was served for all to enjoy, and the Galaxy Band of the Golden West complimented the evening with live music.

Without the support of agencies and personnel on base and the support of our surrounding communities, this event would not have been possible, Pahia said.

"A big 'thank you' goes out to all those who played a part to make this year's Winter Wonderland Holiday Party such a success," added the captain.



Photos by Kristina Cline / 60th CS Visual Information

Donning their Santa caps, Lt. Col. Raymard Miller (left) and Lt. Col. Grace Blevins-Holman MC'd the holiday event. Miller is the 60th Air Mobility Wing deputy director of staff, and Blevins-Holman is the 60th Maintenance Group deputy commander.



**Above** — A Travis couple enjoys a dance during the wing's Winter Wonderland holiday party. **ABOVE LEFT** and **LEFT** — Throughout the holiday party Lt. Col. Raymard Miller, 60th Air Mobility Wing deputy director of staff, imitated several Travis leaders as part of a "guessing game" he played with party attendees.

## AF officials call on servicemembers, families to donate blood

By Master Sgt. Michael Briggs  
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) -- With a smaller pool of eligible military donors and a recently decreased stock of frozen blood, the Air Force assistant vice chief of staff is calling on servicemembers and their families to donate blood.

In a recent memo to the field, Lt. Gen. Joseph Wehrle asked airmen

At Travis, people can donate blood every Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the second floor laboratory in David Grant Medical Center.

worldwide to support the January observance of National Volunteer Blood Donor Month by rolling up their sleeves and giving the gift of life.

"Blood safety and availability are inseparable requirements for ensuring

optimal care of our active-duty troops, retirees, military spouses and children," he said. "Unfortunately, current federal regulations barring donations from (people) who have served time in Europe have resulted in a 25-percent drop in eligible donors on Air Force bases."

Besides fewer donors, the frozen blood supply took a hit recently when the Armed Services Blood Program Office asked the military to withdraw

frozen blood supplies donated during last summer's West Nile virus epidemic to avoid transmitting the potentially fatal disease to recipients.

Those factors, combined with a historical trend of fewer blood donations in the winter months, would make the need for blood more urgent in any year. That need is even more urgent today, taking into consideration current world events including a possible war with Iraq.

# 'Action' team rebuilds Travis PHA process

By Staff Sgt. Mark Diamond  
60th AMW Public Affairs

Since November 1997, all active-duty Air Force personnel have been required to complete an annual Physical Health Assessment.

Although important, the PHA process is sometimes confusing.

That's about to change.

In February, a new and improved PHA process will kickoff at Travis Air Force Base. Although base officials are impressed with the new process, how the process was developed is equally impressive.

In November 2002, a 47 percent PHA completion rate here prompted base officials to come up with a plan to fix a system that was clearly broken.

An Action Workout team was formed

and the team's mission was clear — address the problem and find a solution.

The 15-person Action Workout team was headed by Maj. Rachel Lefebvre and consisted of a cross-section of Travis people; from first sergeants and Unit Healthcare Monitors to Unit Deployment Monitors and medical experts. The ranks were uniformly diverse from major to airman first class to chief master sergeants and junior NCOs.

"When you take part in an Action Workout, it becomes your full-time job," said Lefebvre, a senior group practice manager at David Grant Medical Center. "You work 10- to 11-hour days until the job is done."

The major said their first step was to determine the problem. She said the team examined every aspect of the PHA process, first mapping the process from

each person's perspective, determining the commonalities, exploring the PHA process at eight other Air Force bases, and finally focusing on eliminating inefficiencies, roadblocks, and developing tools to enhance the process.

She said they quickly determined that the PHA notification process, to include accountability, was a big part of the problem. The notification process was different from squadron to squadron and it lacked accountability at the "member level." Lefebvre said these factors accounted for a 15 percent PHA no-show rate and an 11 percent PHA cancellation rate.

In the past, Lefebvre said, a PHA survey was distributed to base personnel. Once the survey was completed, it was handed to a Unit Healthcare or Deployment Monitor who, in turn, delivered the

surveys to the Health and Wellness Center. Hospital personnel picked up the surveys daily. "Many times, the surveys were lost in this process; either misplaced or forgotten," said the major. She also said that only 4.5 percent of the surveys (that's 6 out of 133) actually made it back to the hospital.

The new PHA notification process — which has already has begun — should fix these problems.

Personnel are no longer required to complete a PHA survey. Instead, the members' medical records are pre-screened by medical personnel between the first and fourteenth of each month. The pre-screening helps determine what individuals require based on their occupation, gender, and medical history. On

■ SEE PHA PROCESS ON PAGE 6

## 28 base airman selected for BTZ promotion

The following Travis airman were selected for promotion below-the-zone for the October through December promotion cycle:

### CENTRAL BASE BOARD SELECTIONS

NAME	UNIT
Ana Velasco .....	21st AS
Jenea Wyand .....	60th DS
Carmen Audi .....	60th MOS
Ryan Wade .....	60th SFS
Mitchell Hegarty .....	60th SVS
Albert Sukut .....	9th ARS

### LARGE UNIT BOARD SELECTIONS

NAME	UNIT
Geoffrey Byrd .....	60th AMXS
Danielle Del Papa .....	60th AMXS
John Labo .....	60th AMXS
Ryan Van Buskirk .....	60th AMXS
Gregory Watkins .....	60th AMXS
Michael Holtzclaw .....	60th APS
Noel Figueroa .....	60th CES
Bryan Judd .....	60th CES
James Levell .....	60th CES
Amanda Parsley .....	60th CMS
Richard Moss .....	60th CS
Robert May .....	60th LRS
Joi Turner .....	60th LRS
Nikisha Alexander .....	60th MDOS
Kristine Valeros .....	60th MDOS
Rajkumari Ramsawak .....	60th MDTs
Travis Thurman .....	60th MDTs
Desiree Carroll .....	60th MSGS
Alex Cathey .....	60th MSGS
Macrina Martinez .....	660th AMXS
James Taimanglo .....	660th AMXS
Robert Austin Tepe .....	660th AMXS

## Base officials urge parents to educate their children on hazards of abandoned homes

Tailwind staff

Abandoned houses in the family housing area can pose a problem, according to 60th Air Mobility Wing Safety officials.

Although members of the Safety Office periodically inspect these homes, base officials said the bottom line is there are inherent safety problems with abandoned buildings. Officials also said these problems are compounded when unsupervised children are present.

According to the Safety Office, the best answer is to have parents educate their children and have housing residents report any children playing in the area of abandoned homes.

Some of the dangers associated with abandoned houses include:

» Broken windows are always a temptation — they are also a chance to get into a house or break more windows for "sport."

» Tripping hazards in the yard — including broken concrete patios, holes or old stakes used to hold up trees.

» Crawl spaces under houses (spaces used for maintenance/wires) — can also be tempting; however, suffocation and cave ins can result when the ground is unstable.

» Climbing trees can result in falls.

» Wooden fences that are sagging or unsteady — fences can have nails that will easily puncture a shoe or a hand.

» Old clothesline — children are tempted to tear these down.

» Stairs — used by skate boarders for ramps/jumps.

» Abandoned swing sets —



Archive photos



Abandoned homes like these can be dangerous "playgrounds" for unsupervised Travis children.

these usually get destroyed or knocked over.

» Culverts/drainage ditches — attractive for smaller children to play in, which could result in a bad fall or lacerations, or the child could get stuck in a smaller section of pipe.

» Metal or wooden fences with head-size gaps — small openings have been known to catch children's hands or heads.

» Discarded electrical cords — children like to tie things up with

these, which is not a good idea, according to safety officials.

» Discarded light bulbs — Children think these are great for target practice; a bad idea as the glass goes everywhere when broken.

» Abandoned hazardous materials — bottles or cans of unidentified materials should not be present in abandoned base homes, but they sometimes show up.

» Refrigerators with the doors still attached create a suffocation danger; a real killer of small children.

» Gas and electrical utilities still connected — Utilities should not be connected, but it's better safe than sorry. This can be extremely dangerous as it can cause fire, explosion, electrocution, etc.

» Safety officials said in the past they've received calls concerning children building underground forts in some areas of housing. They said this presents the danger of cave-ins and suffocations.

# NEWS NOTES

## TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

### Annual awards banquet

The 60th Air Mobility Wing Annual Awards Banquet is Jan. 31 in the Delta Breeze Club Ballroom. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Military dress is mess dress or semi-formal, and civilian attire is formal.

Tickets are available through unit first sergeants beginning Wednesday. The final day of ticket sales is Jan. 24. The cost is \$20. An additional \$2 surcharge will be added for non-club cardholders.

### Attention retirees

Retirees who need help with their tax preparations should contact the Travis Retiree

Activities Office. Tax preparations will begin in February. Beginning Tuesday, appointments can be made by calling 424-3904, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### MTI briefing today

Those interested in becoming a Military Training Instructor should attend an MTI briefing today at 9 a.m. in Building 51, Room 108. Officials with the MTI recruiting team will be on hand to answer questions. Spouses are encouraged to attend the briefing.

Senior airmen who commit to a second term through technical sergeants with less than 17 years of total active

military service are eligible to apply for MTI duty. In most cases, the MTI recruiting team can expedite the special duty application packages.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Cari Dodge at 424-5005.

### OTS applications

Effective immediately, Officer Training School has suspended all non-technical applications until October 2003.

Airmen with non-technical bachelor degrees interested in applying to OTS may not do so until October. Airmen with technical degrees or those interested in rated positions may continue to apply. Commissioning briefings are held at the Base Education Center the last Friday of each month at 1 p.m. The next briefing will be held Jan. 31. Airmen interested in applying to OTS or any other commissioning program should attend this briefing before meeting with a

### Tailwind Corrections

In an effort to get important information to our readers as quick as possible, errors sometimes occur in the Tailwind editing process. We apologize for the following recent mistakes:

» In the Dec. 20 edition of the Tailwind, we printed a holiday message with the 15th Air Force commander's byline. The story was, in fact, written by the Air Mobility Command vice commander, Lt. Gen. John R. Baker.

» On Page 9 of the Jan. 10 *Tailwind*, information was misprinted in a chart that accompanied the story titled "Air Force announces change in enlisted High Year Tenure." The correct High Year of Tenure times have been printed in the chart above.

### 2003 HYT

E-4	.....12 years
E-5	.....20 years
E-6	.....24 years
E-7	.....26 years
E-8	.....28 years
E-9	.....30 years

**Note** — the new HYT dates are effective Jan. 1, 2003.

counselor. For more information, contact Kate Haworth at 424-1728.

### CAC announcement

Recent Air Force guidance indicates Air Force members have until Oct. 1, 2003, to obtain the new Common Access Card. Until that time, a current ID card is valid.

The Common Access Card, commonly referred to as the "smart card," holds a finger-nail-sized chip that contains the smart card operating system, special applications, biometric data (fingerprints), a private personal identification number, and textual data (i.e., full name, pay grade, gender, branch of service, and more.

## PHA PROCESS / From Page 4

the fifteenth of each month, a PHA list is sent to Unit Health/Deployment Monitors. For example, on Jan. 15, the March PHA list was sent to the monitors. The monitors then notify their personnel, with the goal of all personnel signed up for their PHA by the thirtieth of each month.

The tracking and actual notification of the member is up to each monitor; each individual must now sign the Sherwood Letter, developed by Staff Sgt. Raymond Sherwood of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron. The Sherwood Letter provides simple notification and basic instructions and lets each individual know that the PHA is a mandatory appointment and failure to accomplish the PHA is punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Conduct.

Lefebvre said the Sherwood Letter "puts teeth into the new process."

Another tool the team developed is a PHA expectation fact sheet, which the monitors are handing out when their personnel sign up for their PHA. The sheet clearly details what the personnel should expect from their PHA.

Once an individual is notified of his or her forthcoming PHA, they call the clinic they are empanelled to (Family Practice, Primary Care, etc.) and make an appointment. In the past, appointments were made for each individual, giving them little or no say in the matter.

Beginning in February, each

***"The PHA is important to ensuring our 'human weapon systems' are ready."***

— Maj. Rachel Lefebvre  
Action Workout team leader

PHA appointment will begin with a mass briefing from 7 to 8:30 a.m. (Flight Medicine enrollees are excluded from the mass briefing due to their specific requirements). Each briefing includes height and weight checks, a blood pressure test, visual acuity examination, immunization records update, a standard health survey, and a 30-minute health prevention briefing. By the end of the mass briefing, Lefebvre said a majority of the personnel will have completed their annual PHA. She did add that those who require further treatment (i.e., immunizations, blood test, hearing test, Primary Care visit, and so forth) will take care of those matters following the briefing.

In most instances, she said all appointments will occur the same day, whenever possible. The major added that those people who require further treatment will be given a red PHA badge to help them expedite the PHA process within the hospital. "The red badge is basically a free pass to the front

of any line," explained Lefebvre.

Another tool the team developed is a green PHA completion letter. Once each person completes their PHA, they receive this letter. The member then returns the letter to his or her UHM to show proof of completion.

Members who did not complete their PHA the same day will receive a pink PHA non-completion letter, outlining their future appointments. Reasons for not completing a PHA the same day could include failing a hearing exam or receiving a TB test, which takes three days for completion.

In the end, the major said the PHA process has been reduced from 23 steps to 15 steps, and the PHA cycle time has been reduced from 45 days to just 15 days.

But the team isn't resting on those accomplishments. The major said they will continue to monitor the PHA process and make adjustments, if needed. She also said that feedback from their customers is important — and highly encouraged.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this process, and we know there will be bumps," said the major. "The key is flexibility and accountability."

"The PHA is important to ensuring our 'human weapon systems' are ready," she said. "The new process will not only ensure our personnel are ready, it will improve the long-term health of our force and provide 'real-time' medical readiness status."

Knowledge is power!  
Read a book at the base library.

The best guests to invite to a party are the designated drivers.

# Engine Maintenance Facility exterior upgrade begins soon

## Aging building gets needed 'facelift'

Construction will soon begin on the exterior of the Engine Maintenance Facility, Building 16. The project was awarded to K.O.O. Construction in November 2002, and will be administered by the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, under the direction of U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Drew Rowlands.

The project was awarded for \$3.25 million and will involve a total facelift to the 61,775-square-foot facility that was constructed in 1948.

Once the project is complete, the facility will be architecturally compatible with many other new facilities on Travis and will emulate its neighboring facility, the KC-10 Maintenance Hangar.

Facility improvements include new siding, a new "Travis Red" metal roof, stair-

well enclosures, and new windows for better interior lighting.

This project is the first phase of a two-phase upgrade.

The project is currently in the final stages of the design-build phase, with construction set to begin in late spring.

The second phase will completely upgrade the interior of the facility to conform to current seismic requirements, as well as upgrades to enhance training and overall quality of life in the work place. The second phase is in the design stage with construction programmed to begin in 2005.

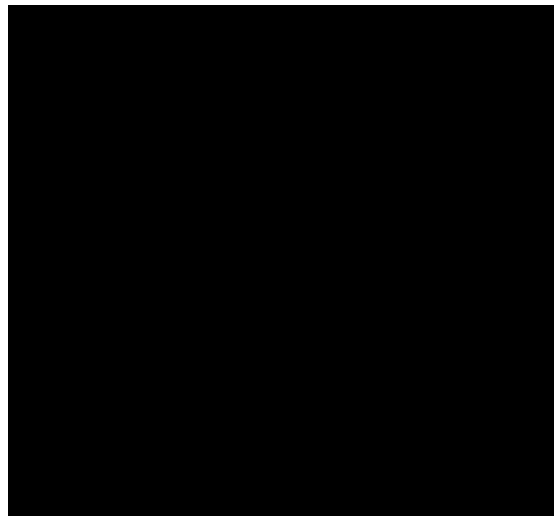
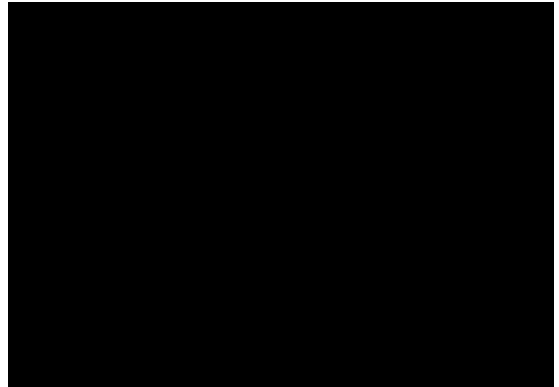
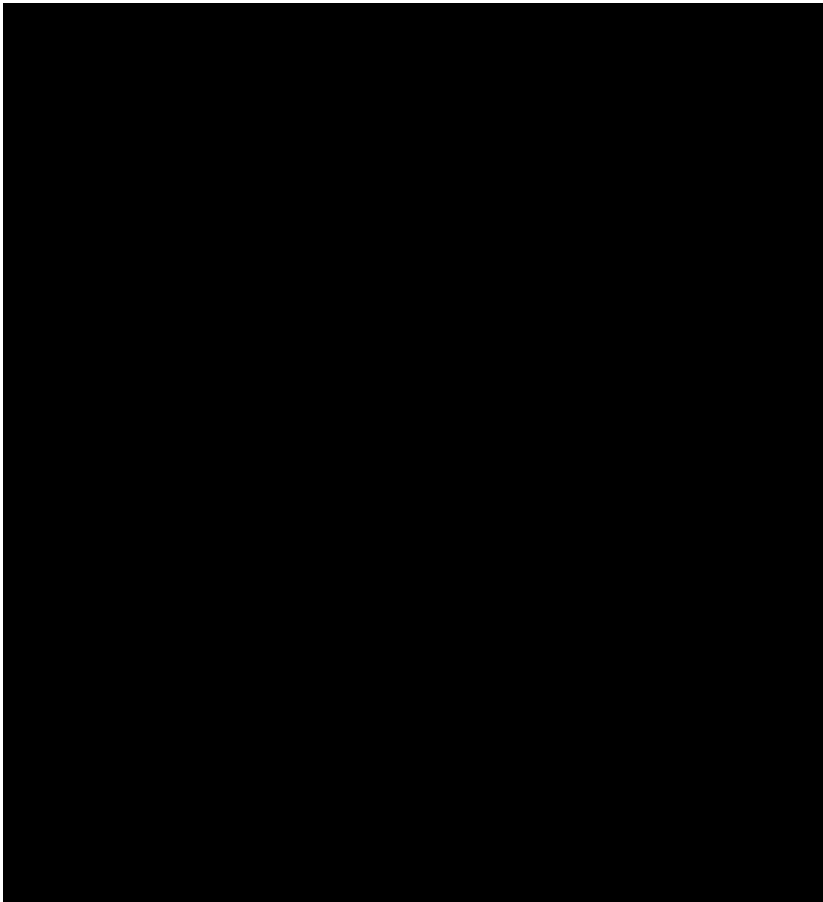
The project is expected to take one year to complete, but 60th Civil Engineer Squadron officials said construction will not disrupt current use of the facility.



File photo

— Tailwind staff

Construction will soon begin on the exterior of Building 16, the Engine Maintenance Facility.



# SHINING STAR

## TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE



1st Lt. Angela Arredondo / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Karen Gerlach discusses a project with 60th Mission Support Group executive officer, Capt. Robert Farkas.

## Travis civilian helps shape next generation

Karen Gerlach, secretary to the 60th Mission Support Group commander, is a familiar source of information at Travis. She's been at the base since 1986 and enjoys being at the center of the 60th MSG, which is responsible for base infrastructure, communications, security, personnel and services supporting 25,000 personnel within the 60th Air Mobility Wing.



AIR MOBILITY  
COMMAND

Col. Leonard Patrick, 60th MSG commander, directs five squadrons providing support to airlift and tanker mission requirements, maintains combat deployment readiness and controls an annual budget of more than \$48 million and resources exceeding \$450 million.

"I handle administrative functions in the office and work closely with the [executive officers]. I am responsible for welcoming guests, taking care of paperwork like letters and reports, filing, answering the telephone and managing the commander's schedule," Gerlach said.

"If anyone knows where the commanders are it is Karen. She's the glue that keeps the group together," said Capt. Robert Farkas, 60th MSG executive officer.

"The most rewarding part of the job is watching the young people grow and excel," Gerlach added. "Anything we can do to guide them is really exciting. Working for good bosses is great, too."

Gerlach is very familiar with the Air Force way of life since her husband served for 26 years and was a Travis air traffic controller. They have been married 37 years and have two children and one grandson.

— Tailwind staff

## New California helmet law takes affect

A new California helmet law requires everyone under the age of 18 to wear a helmet when using a bicycle, in-line skates, roller skates, skateboards or scooters (powered and non-powered). In accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, all personnel, regardless of age, are still required to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle on Travis Air Force Base.

Seatbelts are hugs from your car!



# Eagle Eyes

## Countering terrorism requires your help

Only you know who or what belongs — or does not belong — in your building, neighborhood or work center.

Recognition of this fact is behind one of the latest Air Force antiterrorism initiatives, a program known as "Eagle Eyes."

The program has characteristics of a typical neighborhood-watch program, and Air Force officials consider it a key piece in the service's antiterrorism strategy here.

According to Special Agent Edward Slaton Jr. of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Det. 303., here, the program takes its cue from the experiences of British and Israeli authorities, who have significant experience dealing with urban terrorism.

"They make it their business to pay a lot of attention to small things that, in combination, can indicate they're being targeted," Slaton said. "Eagle Eyes is our model for doing just that. The simple act of recognizing suspicious behavior and reporting it to base authorities could thwart terrorist acts and save lives."

At Travis, anyone with something to report should immediately call the Crime Stop Hotline at 424-2000. Security forces will respond as appropriate to the immediate situation and immediately pass the report to OSI Det. 303. From there, OSI will begin appropriate follow-up action, which may include an agent responding to talk with the person who called in the report to gain additional information on what was seen or heard.

At the same time, the information will be quickly up-channeled to OSI's central analytical center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to compare with other Air Force reports, as well as similar information from the Army, Navy and other federal agencies.

But it all begins at the local level, Slaton said, where terrorists conduct operational planning activities.

"Every terrorist operation is preceded by precursor events that people need to recognize and report," said Slaton. "Terrorist acts don't just happen — they are carefully planned and rehearsed many, many times in advance."

The key, Slaton said, is public awareness of what to look for and take note of — both on and off base.

"This is something the whole community needs to be involved in," Slaton said. "Anyone — from active-duty military members and family members to government civilians, contractors and even off-base business proprietors — could see something out of the ordinary, report it, and make the difference between a terrorist act occurring or not occurring."

"Our best chance to detect and prevent a terrorist act in our community is to vigilantly report it. The more eyes and ears we can enlist to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, the more difficult we can make it for terrorists to act."

Slaton said people shouldn't be nervous about reporting incidents that could turn out to be innocent behavior.

### Activity that should be reported:

► Specific threats: any threat received by any means that contains a specific time, location, or area for an attack.

► Instances of any out-of-the-ordinary person or persons monitoring activities or recording information. Such activity may include the use of cameras, note taking, notes on maps or drawings, hand-drawn maps or diagrams, and the use of binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices. It could also be as simple as seeing the same unknown vehicle parked in our area without explanation.

► Any attempts to obtain security-related information, - or even basic information about the base, - by anyone who does not have the appropriate security clearance and the need-to-know. Known as "elicitation," these attempts may be made by e-mail, fax, telephone, in person, or through the mail.

► Any attempts to measure security-reaction times or strengths and weaknesses; any attempts to test or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures; any attempts to acquire or duplicate uniforms, badges, passes, etc..

► Repetitive activities: any two or more suspicious activities by the same person and/or vehicle in a one-month period.

► Suspicious activities/incidents: any activity that does not specifically fit into the previous categories yet it is a concern to you. Some examples of this are thefts of uniforms, ID cards, or vehicle decals from your vehicle, home or office.

"That's bound to happen from time to time, but you don't know if it's innocent until you report it and have it checked out," Slaton said. "We're much less concerned about too much reporting than we are with too little. When lives are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry. If in doubt, report it. Your call could make the difference. The bottom line is if something bothers you or doesn't seem right, tell someone."

## Mounted security forces patrol Little Rock perimeter

By Staff Sgt. Chyenne Griffin  
314th Air Force Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. (AFPN) — Base security got a boost recently with the addition of three horses to form the 314th Security Forces Squadron mounted patrol.

The horse patrol covers a designated area of Little Rock Air Force Base every day and focuses on remote areas of the perimeter, wooded areas behind housing and hunting areas that normally do not receive routine law enforcement coverage. Riders cover virtually every area of the base, said Lt. Col. Kyle Lundberg, 314th SFS commander.

"Horses can go where vehicles can't, where even all-terrain vehicles get stuck and cover ground possibly not traversable by foot," said Staff Sgt.

Cherri Allen, 314th SFS mounted patrol trainer. "Things that are normally obstacles to people and vehicles are not obstacles to these horses."

It took about 90 days from concept approval to receiving three certified horses and riders here.

The horses are named Leadership, Teamwork and Growth.

Finding three horses suitable for the work was just the start of an intensive project, said Allen. Leadership made the journey from Colorado, while Growth and Teamwork were found in Fayetteville and El Paso, Ark.

"We were very selective in finding horses with the right temperament, size, and standardized color and appearance," said Lundberg.

After that, saddles, tack and other riding and safety equipment had to be ordered. The

mounted patrol will soon be wearing a new riding uniform with helmet, riding boots, navy-blue breeches and a light-blue top, similar to a blue service uniform.

The mounted patrol is the first in Air Education and Training Command and second in the Air Force.

"The security forces horse patrol was originally used at Clark Air Base in the Philippines and later at Howard Air Base in Panama. Those horses are currently in use at Vandenberg Air Force Base (Calif.)," said Lundberg. "I had seen those horses in action while (on temporary duty) and saw firsthand the benefit of using them in remote areas of an air base."

A mounted unit from the Dallas Police Department volunteered to train the seven mounted patrol members here during two weeks in November.



Staff Sgt. Chyenne Griffin / AFPN

The 314th Security Forces Squadron Mounted Patrol on patrol at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. From left to right are Airman 1st Class Joe Puga riding Leadership, Senior Airman Bronson Brown riding Teamwork and Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Collins riding Growth.

The mounted patrol learned basic care and maintenance of the horse and equipment, riding skills and proper police procedures from a mounted position, including handcuff and search tactics.

The riders and horses also received advanced sensory

training desensitizing the horse to loud noise and other events that could startle the horses.

Similar to military working dog teams, the horse and rider must be properly trained and certified by the 314th Mission Support Group commander prior to working patrol.



James Lovely / AFPN

U.S. Air Force Academy cadet Mike Hedding holds Vector, a prairie falcon, while talking with teenagers who attended the Teen Aviation Camp at the academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. The weeklong program introduced youngsters to academy life and what opportunities exist there.

## Youth get first taste of flight at Air Force Teen Aviation Camp

By 60th Services Squadron

Youth interested in following in a parent's footsteps and possibly joining the Air Force, have a unique opportunity to get a taste of Air Force life with the Teen Aviation Camp scheduled this summer.

Children of active-duty Air Force personnel, who will be sophomores or juniors in high school during the 2003-2004 school year, are eligible to apply for aviation camp. The 3rd Annual Air Force Teen Aviation Camp will be held at Colorado Springs, Colo., May 31 through June 6.

Approximately 40 youth will be chosen from bases worldwide to participate in the program. Teens will be selected on the basis of a variety of activities and achievements including: student leadership, extracurricular activities, youth club membership, community service, honors won and high school grades.

Those selected will spend a week at the Academy learning about aerodynamics through classroom instruction, using a flight simulator and actually piloting an aircraft.

Interested teens must submit a completed application and all documents to the Youth Center and set up an interview with the Youth Center director by March 6.

For more information, call the Youth Center at 424-5392.



Teenagers attending the Teen Aviation Camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., participate in a team-building course. The weeklong program introduced youngsters to academy life and what opportunities exist there.

# Pope combat controller awarded Air Force Cross

By Airman 1st Class Jason Neal  
43rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AMCNS) — Senior Air Force leaders gathered here Friday to honor a fallen hero with the Air Force Cross.

Tech. Sgt. John "Chappy" Chapman, a Pope combat controller who sacrificed his life in Afghanistan while saving the lives of his entire team, was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross, which is second only to the Medal of Honor as an award for valor.

Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche said Chapman was "an American's American" and a hero.

"We gather today to pay tribute to the heroic efforts of Technical Sgt. John Chapman," said

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. "Today we know that John is here with us. Generations of men and women who have sacrificed their lives ... for this nation fill the blank spaces of this hall today. They look upon us. They judge us. Are we worthy — worthy to carry their honor in the examples they set for us? John Chapman is worthy. We respect his memory. God bless him."

Jumper presented the Air Force Cross to Chapman's widow, Valerie. Chapman's parents, Terry Giaccone and Gene Chapman, each received one of the medals from the Chief of Staff as well.

The Air Force Cross has been awarded only three times since Vietnam and to only 23 enlisted airman since the award's inception. Chief Master Sgt. of the

Air Force Gerald R. Murray said, "Such is the high degree of heroism for the merit of this medal's award."

Chapman and his team were inserted by helicopter into an area of Afghanistan, March 4, 2002, for a mission. During insertion, the helicopter came under heavy machine gun fire and was directly hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. The grenade hit caused one of the members of the team, a United States Navy sea-air-land team member, to fall from the aircraft.

The helicopter was severely damaged and made an emergency landing seven kilometers away from where the Navy team member fell.

After landing, Chapman called in an AC-130 gunship to provide close air support and cover the stranded team before

directing the gunship to search for the missing team member.

Chapman called for, coordinated and controlled an evacuation helicopter for the team, limiting their exposure to enemy fire.

According to the citation, "Without regard for his own life, Sergeant Chapman volunteered to rescue his missing team member from an enemy strong hold. Shortly after insertion, the team made contact with the enemy. Sergeant Chapman engaged and killed two enemy personnel. He continued to advance; reaching the enemy position, then engaged a second enemy position, a dug-in machine gun nest. At this time the rescue team came under effective enemy fire from three directions. From close range Sergeant Chapman exchanged fire with the enemy from minimum personal cover until he succumbed to multiple wounds. His engagement and destruction of the first enemy position and advancement on the second enemy position enabled his team to move to cover and break enemy contact."

The team leader credited John's aggressive and selfless actions with saving the lives of the entire team.

Chapman's name was also added to a memorial at the Combat Control School Friday. The memorial has the names of all the combat controllers who have been killed on a separate plaque. Each plaque has the name of the fallen member and the place where they fell.

Chapman dropped out of the University of Connecticut to enlist 27, 1985.

He began CCT training at Lackland AFB, Texas, in 1989. After CCT graduation, Chapman was assigned to various CCT teams before he was hand picked to return to Pope with an assignment to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron. While with the 24th STS, Chapman honed his skills to mastery, becoming known as a skilled radio communicator, aircraft landing zone controller, combat search and rescue professional, air traffic controller, free-fall parachutist, static-line jumpmaster and military scuba-dive instructor.

# Some airlines waive ticket-exchange fees

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Some U.S. airlines are adjusting their rules so service members will not have to pay penalties if they need to alter ticket reservations because of military duty.

AirTran Airways, Delta Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines now waive ticket-change fees for servicemembers on military deployment orders, while ticketing changes on Southwest Airlines are already free, according to Jean Marie Ward of the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for personnel and readiness.

Ward said particulars of these carriers' programs can be viewed at the Defense Department's military assistance program Web site. Information from more airlines is expected to be added soon, she said.

According to General Service Administration officials, a number of other airlines will waive ticket-change penalties if servicemembers present copies of their military orders or a letter from their commanders, Ward said. The waiver procedures are official company policy for some carriers, she said, but not all reservation or check-in people may know that. She suggested travelers call their airline for waiver information before going to the airport.

Much of the U.S. airline industry has been in a financial tailspin since Sept. 11, 2001, and have instituted or boosted penalties for customers who want new tickets because of missed flights or changes in their travel plans.

Military travelers became prime penalty targets on Oct. 7, 2001, when America launched its military offensive against global terrorism.

Questions were raised in late 2002 about the travel penalties faced by servicemembers called off leave for military operations.

At the DOD's request, GSA officials queried City Pairs Program carriers — the contract carriers for government travelers — regarding ticket-exchange penalties and waivers for the military, Ward said. Meanwhile, she added, Air Mobility Command officials pursued parallel inquiries and ultimately coordinated much of the discussion between the DOD and the airlines regarding waivers.

Information on the military assistance program Web site notes that the Army Emergency Relief Society, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Air Force Aid Society may provide loans to cover unexpected expenses resulting when air carriers do not waive fees or penalties.

The Web site notes that servicemembers needing financial help of this type can call or visit the relief

society office at the nearest military installation. The three organizations have reciprocal agreements with each other and the Coast Guard.

Policies for changing reservations or travel plans vary across the travel industry, Ward explained, noting that Amtrak tickets, for example, can be changed without charge in most cases. Prearranged travel packages would be more difficult to alter.

"However, the travel issues related to short-term deployments are broader than changes in personal travel plans," Ward said.

Certain military people, such as single and dual-military parents, are required to have family care plans for deployments, she noted, adding that these plans can involve sending children to distant family members or bringing a caretaker into the home.

Ward said the DOD is exploring the issue of this kind of short-fused family travel with the airlines. Pending new airline policies, she said, the DOD recommends servicemembers implementing plans that call for short-fused family travel ask their airline representative about eligibility requirements for any special fares.

Military families whose care plans rely on other forms of transportation should check their carriers' policies, Ward said. Local military service relief societies might offer loans to cover these expenses.

## Airman's 'The Book' now available online

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Demographics, statistics, and a wide range of compiled information about the Air Force highlight the first issue of Airman magazine in 2003, available now on the World Wide Web.

"Centennial of Flight" is the theme for Airman's January 2003 issue, traditionally called "The Book." The issue focuses on facts about the blue-suit service, offering a wealth of information and data. It includes:

### » Organization of the Aerospace Forces.

This section breaks down the service by its leadership, commands, bases and more. Each command section describes its function, lists its commander and provides insight to its function within the Air Force.

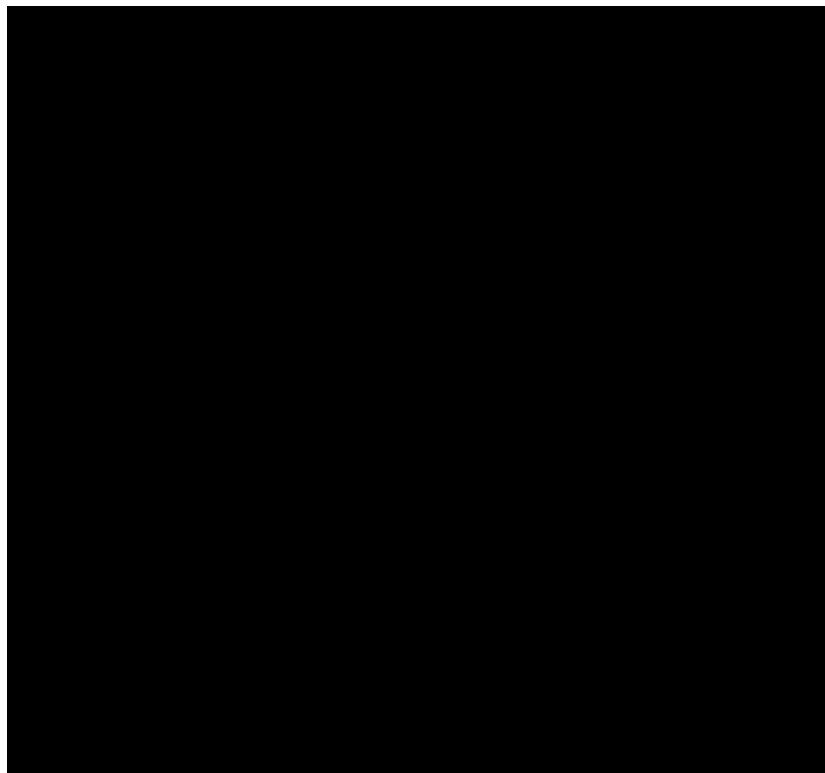
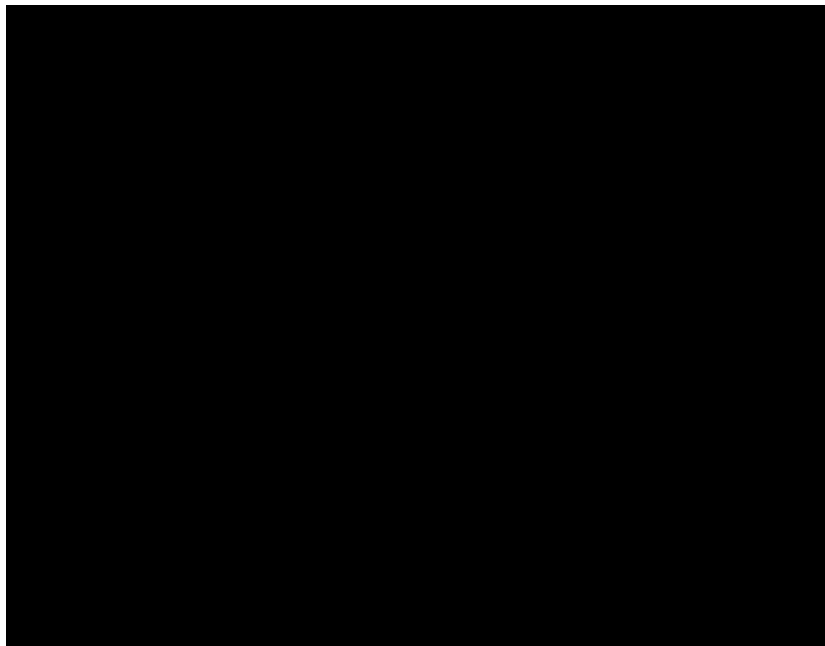
» **Facts and Figures.** Maps, charts and graphs illustrate the various demographics of the service and highlight the Air Force's place in national defense. The section includes maps showing major installation locations, personnel numbers, military pay charts, a full-color awards and decorations chart, badges, civilian awards, Air Force berets and more.

» **Aerospace Weapons.** Aircraft are but one part of what makes this aerospace force of the 21st century work. The "Aerospace Weapons" section features a majority of the weapons systems at the service's disposal, including aircraft, satellites, bombs and missiles.

Extra copies of "The Book" are available by e-mailing the unit's mailing address and the total number of Air Force people (military and civilian employees) to [afnspub@afnews.af.mil](mailto:afnspub@afnews.af.mil).

## Career on hold?

The Family Support Center Family Member Employment Assistance Program help you explore your potential. Call 424-2486.



## CHAPEL SERVICES

### TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

#### Catholic services

- » Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m., communion service or Mass, Chapel Center.
- » Thursday, noon, Catholic communion service, David Grant Medical Center Chapel.
- » Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m., confessions, Chapel One.
- » Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel One.
- » Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Chapel One.
- » Sunday, 9 a.m., children's liturgy of the Word, Chapel One.
- » Sunday Mass, 12:30 p.m., Chapel Center.

#### Protestant services

- » Friday, noon, 30-minute worship service, DGMC Chapel.
- » Sunday, 8 a.m., community, praise and worship service, Chapel Center.
- » Sunday, 10:30 a.m., community worship service, Chapel Center. Nursery class for kids 3 months to 3 years.
- » Sunday, 11 a.m., community Gospel service, Chapel One.

#### Contemporary services

Sundays, 5 p.m., Inside Out, Chapel Center. Children's program provided. For more information, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Herb Shao at 424-3943.

#### Wicca services

Classes are held at various locations and times. E-mail beltane@prodigy.net for current information.

### Chapel News & Information

#### Prayer Luncheon

The Travis Air Force Base annual National Prayer Luncheon is Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Delta Breeze Club.

The guest speaker for the event will be Chaplain (Col.) Cecil Richardson, Air Combat Command Chaplain.

Tickets are available at the Chapel or from unit first sergeants. Tickets cost \$5.

#### PWOC Retreat

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will hold their retreat Jan. 24-26 in the serenity of the redwoods at Mt. Hermon Retreat Center, Mt. Hermon, Calif. Registration is \$75 and includes lodging and food. The topic will be "Timeless Treasures." Attendees will learn and will be inspired by the fellowship. For more information, contact LaVerne Perkins at 439-9314 or Pat Flye at 426-9951.

#### Sunday School

Beginning the first Sunday in February, the Protestant Sunday School will offer a new Adult Sunday School

class focusing on marital and family issues. Sunday School begins at 9:50 a.m. in the Chapel Center.

#### Adult faith classes

St. Michael Catholic Community offers the following Adult Faith-Formation Classes:

» Bible Study Interpretation, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., contact Charles Raymond at 426-6781.

» Faith Lessons on the Early Church, Wednesdays, 0900-1030, contact Frances Pelletier at skywatch@flash.net or call 437-4503.

» Catholic Doctrine, Catechism for Adults, Sundays, 1400-1600, contact Julius Blum at docblum@prodigy.net or call 446-4200.

» Catholic Apologetics, Explaining Catholicism to Non-Catholics, Web-based, contact Julius Blum at docblum@prodigy.net or call 446-4200.

For more information on Adult Faith-Formation Classes, contact the instructor or call Maryellen Rosenberg at 424-4795 or 437-0624.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

### Announcements

#### Tops In Blue

A limited number of free tickets are available for the Travis performance of Tops in Blue, who will be at the base theater at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Unit-appointed representatives will have tickets available. Tickets are also available at the Travis Bowl.

#### Winter Adventures

The Information, Tickets and Travel office offers a wide variety of winter trips. Visit Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf Saturday; take a Napa Valley Tour Jan. 25; and experience Chinatown Feb. 1. All ITT trips are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and transportation is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children unless otherwise stated. Call Outdoor Recreation at 424-5659 for a complete schedule.

### Services

#### Today

▲ There's boss and buddy day golf at Cypress Lakes. Two can golf for the price of one. Call 424-5797 for more information.

#### Saturday

▲ Explore Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf with Information, Tickets and Travel from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children.

#### Sunday

▲ The Gold Rush Lounge's late niter features dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. There is a \$6 cover, \$2 for members.  
▲ The Youth Bowl-by-Mail Tournament is at noon at the Travis Bowl. Call 437-4737 or 424-5392 for details.

#### Tuesday

▲ The Sierra Inn is serving a Martin Luther King Jr. birthday meal from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday

▲ Tops in Blue performs at the base theater at 7:30 p.m.  
▲ The Mitchell Memorial Library features storytime for preschoolers from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

#### Thursday

The Delta Breeze Club is holding a membership wrap up party from 4 to 6 p.m. It is open to all ranks, but is for members only.

### Family Support

#### Tuesday

▲ The Family Support Center readiness NCO will be conducting Deployment Briefings for all personnel tasked for deployment or TDY. The briefings are at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the FSC. Call 424-2486 for reservations.

#### Wednesday

▲ WIC representatives will be at the FSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Call 435-2200.

#### Thursday

▲ WIC representatives will be at the FSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Call 435-2200.

▲ The insurance fundamentals workshop is at the FSC from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 424-2486.

▲ The Family Support Center readiness NCO will be conducting Deployment Briefings for all personnel tasked for deployment or TDY. The briefings are at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the FSC. Call 424-2486 for reservations.

### Weekly

▲ Operation HERO is a program for students at Center and Scandia elementary schools that provides instruction for children to help them excel and advance in school, academically and socially. For more information, call Center Elementary at 437-4621 or Scandia Elementary at 437-4691.

▲ Perform a self-help job search at the FSC, where a variety of information services are available, including vacancy announcements, brochures, a number of monthly and weekly business publications, computer programs (DoD Job Search, Federal Jobs, and America's Job Bank), Internet access, and other transition employ-

## Tops In Blue coming to Travis



Archive photos

Tops In Blue is the premier Air Force talent showcase, featuring performers from bases around the world. The group tours annually with a different theme and cast. This year's Tops in Blue appearance at Travis will take place Wednesday and Thursday at the Base Theater.

ment-related sources.

▲ The Department of Labor presents transition workshops monthly at the FSC for separating and retiring members. The workshops provide detailed information about preparing an effective job search. A medical records screening is also included. For information about sign up for the next available course, call 424-2486.

### Family Advocacy

#### Playgroups

Playgroups are for parents and their children and are held at the Chapel One Annex on First Street. The first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month, the playgroups meet at the Duck

Pond for a stroller stroll. During rainy weather they meet at McDonald's on the second floor of Solano Mall. The Toddlers Playgroup is Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for children age 18 months to 3 years. Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. is the Time For Us Playgroup, for children 3 to 5. Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. is the Rattles To Raspberries Playgroup, for infants up to 18 months old. Parents can network with other parents while their children enjoy crafts, guest speakers, music and free play. Registration is not necessary. For more information call 423-5168.

#### Dads boot camp

Boot Camp for new Dads is a program in which veterans (new fathers who bring

their babies) show rookies (fathers-to-be) the ropes of fatherhood. The program is for men only. The program is currently recruiting new dads whose wives are expecting and rookie dads whose wives have just had a baby. Classes are held quarterly. The next three-hour workshop is scheduled for Jan. 30. For more information, call 423-5168.

### Parenting classes

Parenting classes are offered as a six-week program geared toward parents of children 3 and older. Topics include peer pressure, corrective teaching, how to prevent problems before they occur, family meetings, and how to stop problem behavior. Classes are held at David Grant Medical Center. Call the Family Advocacy office to register at 423-5168.



Photos by Master Sgt. Val Gempis / AFPN

Marines rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during joint training at Camp Fuji, Japan. Rappelling is a way to deliver people into a combat environment quickly.

## Former Travis survival instructor shows U.S. Marines the ropes

By Master Sgt. Val Gempis  
Air Force Print News

CAMP FUJI, Japan — Huddled with a group of shivering students on a recent cold morning, an Air Force survival instructor from the 374th Operations Support Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, demonstrates the proper way to rappel



Staff Sgt. David Jewell dangles from a 70-foot tower while demonstrating proper rappelling technique for Marines at Camp Fuji, Japan. Jewell is a survival, evasion, resistance and escape instructor with the 374th Operations Support Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

from a 70-foot tower. The group watches carefully as he attaches a rope to his harness and safely plunges toward the ground.

Staff Sgt. David Jewell, one of only two Air Force survival, evasion, resistance and escape instructors on mainland Japan, teaches combat survival, water survival and evasion techniques to hundreds of aircrew members and other Department of Defense people here.

Jewell, a former Travis survival instructor, said training with sister-service troops is especially great.

"It's incredible to have the opportunity to get different perspectives on the same type of training from professionals from our sister services," Jewell said.

Most recently, he has been training with U.S. Marines. At the beginning, some Marines expressed reservations about having an airman teach them combat skills.

"We were expecting an Army guy," said Lance Cpl. Michael Richter, a member of the Headquarters Battalion, Range Control here.

But he said Jewell quickly impressed them with his professionalism and teaching skills.

"He's very experienced and can easily relate to his students," Richter said. "He definitely knows his stuff."

Jewell said communication is the key. Although the airman and the Marines have one common goal, their terminology might be different. Standardization of equipment and safety items is very important.

"We keep it simple and safe," he said.

With the majestic Mount Fuji in the background, the group honed their skills descending from the 70-foot tower. They familiarized themselves with how to correctly use ropes, harnesses, figure eight devices, helmets and gloves. In the afternoon, they took turns rappelling from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

# Heavy Metal

## 'Fab. Five' helps keep Travis C-5s ready to roll

**Photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Scott King**  
60th AMW Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Robert Robinson, an aircraft metals technician journeyman assigned to the 60th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Fabrication Flight, refurbishes a welding table. The 60th EMS Fabrication Flight is responsible for on- and off-aircraft and support equipment inspection and repair utilizing X-ray, fluorescent penetrant, machining, welding, sheet metal and corrosion control procedures. They also provide local manufacture capabilities for Travis and the surrounding military community.



**ABOVE** — Robinson welds a certification plate as part of his upgrade training. **RIGHT** — Staff Sgt. Leonard Johnson, a non-destructive inspection craftsman, checks for metals wear in a C-5 engine using a spectroil-M oil analysis unit. NDI is one of five sections in the fabrication flight.



Terry Hendricksen, a structural repair layout technician and 23-year veteran in the shop, inspects a piece of metal before making a repair.



Charles Shaffer, an air reserve technician and 12 - year veteran at Travis, sets up a conventional lathe to manufacture tooling for a C-5 horizontal stabilizing repair.



**ABOVE** — Johnson analyzes C-5 engine oil for wear metals, which can occur through normal day - to - day engine running. **LEFT** — Airman 1st Class Leroy Williams, an NDI journeyman, views C-5 brake parts for background fluorescents.